



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# News Release

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### **SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND FREE CITY OF SAN DIEGO YOUTH FORUM**

**SAN DIEGO, CA**— Today's high school students will be tomorrow's leaders, so to prepare them for the region's big challenges and opportunities, the City of San Diego invites all high school students living in San Diego County to attend San Diego Youth Forum 2006, to be held Saturday, March 25, 2006, from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Ridgehaven "Green" Building Auditorium, 9601 Ridgehaven Court in Kearny Mesa, San Diego.

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Forum, titled "Charting a Path Toward a Sustainable Future," will provide high school students a platform to express their hopes and concerns for critical issues facing San Diego, and they can offer recommendations for how the next 20 years should be planned. Featured topics include energy independence, water conservation, air quality, preservation of open space, transportation alternatives, affordable housing, and preparation for a highly-competitive job market. A lively dialogue typically ensues after the student panel presentations. Added to this are the questions and responses to the students by City Council representatives and those from the business community, who will outline what the community's priorities are today.

"This is one of the rare opportunities for students to clearly articulate their vision of the future in the presence of community leaders who are listening, and even taking notes," said Linda Giannelli Pratt, manager of the City of San Diego's Sustainable Community Program, which organizes the annual Youth Forum.

Program organizers hope that as many as 100 high school students will attend the free forum. To register for the event or for more information, visit our website at [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/inspire.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/inspire.shtml) or you may call Kathie Pishny at (858) 627-3334 or send an e-mail to [KPishny@sandiego.gov](mailto:KPishny@sandiego.gov). The annual City Youth Forum is a prelude to National Environmental Education Week 2006, April 16-22, which leads into Earth Day 2006, celebrated on April 22.

The San Diego Sustainable Community Program advocates the financial and environmental benefits associated with policies and programs that increase resource conservation. It is part of the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department (ESD), which is also charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling, energy efficiency and renewable energy use, and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. For more information, visit [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/inspire.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/inspire.shtml).

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